

IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for contract-based aggregation, comprising:
  - (a) receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records;
  - (b) identifying contracts associated with the records by correlating at least one of the contracts with at least one aspect of the received records; and
  - (c) aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using the at least one aggregator;  
wherein a speed with which the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.
2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the contracts are between a customer and a service provider operating the aggregator.
3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the contracts are for different levels of services to be provided to the customer.
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the contracts are for different services to be provided to the customer.
5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a contract identifier is included as a component of the records.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein an amount of data processed while the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of a customer identifier, a service identifier, a source identifier, a destination identifier, a records size identifier, and a quality of service identifier.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising separating the records into separate groups based on the contracts, and aggregating the records of each group using a separate aggregator.
10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising aggregating the records to generate separate aggregations using a single aggregator.
11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for contract-based aggregation embodied on a ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium, comprising:
  - (a) computer code for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records;
  - (b) computer code for identifying contracts associated with the records by correlating at least one of the contracts with at least one aspect of the received records; and
  - (c) computer code for aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using the at least one aggregator;  
wherein a speed with which the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.
12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the contracts are between a customer and a service provider operating the aggregator.
13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the contracts are for different levels of services to be provided to the customer.
14. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the contracts are for different services to be provided to the customer.

15. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein a contract identifier is included as a component of the records.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein an amount of data processed while the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.
18. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of a customer identifier, a service identifier, a source identifier, a destination identifier, a records size identifier, and a quality of service identifier.
19. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, and further comprising computer code for separating the records into separate groups based on the contracts, and computer code for aggregating the records of each group using a separate aggregator.
20. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, and further comprising computer code for aggregating the records to generate separate aggregations using a single aggregator.
21. (Currently Amended) A system for contract-based aggregation, comprising:
  - (a) logic for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are received in at least one aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records;
  - (b) logic for identifying contracts associated with the records by correlating at least one of the contracts with at least one aspect of the received records; and
  - (c) logic for aggregating the records based at least in part on the contracts using the at least one aggregator;  
wherein a speed with which the records are aggregated is based on the contracts.
22. (Currently Amended) A method for contract-based aggregation, comprising:

- (a) receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records include a customer identifier, a service identifier, a source identifier, a destination identifier, a records size identifier, and a quality of service identifier;
  - (b) identifying contracts associated with the records by correlating at least one of the contracts with at least one aspect of the received records, wherein the contracts indicate an amount of aggregation to be performed, a speed with which the aggregation is to be performed, and a group with which the records are associated;
  - (c) separating the records into [[the ]]separate groups based on the contracts; and
  - (d) aggregating the records of each group using a separate aggregator;
  - (e) wherein the records are aggregated an ~~certain~~-amount at a ~~certain~~-speed based at least in part on the contracts using [[the]]an associated aggregator.
23. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one aspect of the received records includes a customer identifier, session or flow source address, destination address, duration, time, date, type of server, and volume of data transferred.
24. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one aspect of the received records is selected from the group consisting of a customer identifier, session or flow source address, destination address, duration, time, date, type of server, and volume of data transferred.
25. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the correlating includes correlating the at least one aspect of the received records with information from a plurality of locations.
26. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the locations are selected from the group consisting of a quality of service policy server, a network management system database, and a general packet radio service system.